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Fun at the fair
Kenzie Misco and Emma Deterling competed together as a team in the horse show at the county fair. /THOMAS SMITH staff

County green lights AH decision

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A decision made by Algonquin Highlands Council has been bounced back up to County Council for information.

During a special meeting of council on May 29, members of the AH council unanimously voted to approve the rezoning of a local property from Shoreline Residential to Rural. The contentious topic sparked a back and forth throughout the community, in light of County Council previously noting that they did not approve of the rezoning, as it went against their Official Plan.

"It was approved by the township, but there is opposition at the local level to it," said Gary Dyke, the CAO of Haliburton County, when the topic came to the table during a regular meeting of County Council on June 11. "And as such,

see COUNTY page 15

Paikin brings the life of John Turner to light

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Author Steve Paikin autographs his newest book during intermission of the most recent Speaker's Series. Paikin's presentation concluded the ongoing Speaker's Series until the early fall. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

There are few things that stress out a journalist.

We're no stranger to deadlines and breaking news. We thrive under pressure, and are masters at putting on a happy face, even after the drudges of a long day.

But being tasked with covering the work of another journalist; that's a stressor.

And not just any journalist. A well-known Canadian icon.

Steve Paikin has been a writer and reporter for news agencies such as CBC and TVO. He is an author, a television host, and the moderator for a number of past debates at federal and provincial levels.

Nearly every Canadian knows his name.

And on June 12, his popularity became apparent in Haliburton County.

Paikin was invited to conclude this season's stacked lineup of the Telling Our Stories Speaker Series; a monthly event that draws crowds from across the county, eager to hear about a variety of eclectic topics brought to the table.

Normally, the events are hosted at the Fish Hatchery. But for this one, the organizers needed to bump up capacity. "This has been our most popular event so far," said Barrie Martin, one of the founding members of the Speakers Series. "It's great to see."

The event was shuffled to the ballroom at the Pinestone. Often used for weddings and proms, the venue had filled the space with rows and rows of banquet chairs.

And every single one was filled. On two occasions, Pinestone staff were seen heading to the storage closets, hauling additional flats of stacked seats out onto the floor; hurriedly trying to keep up with demand.

And at the front of the room, stood a single microphone and a glass of water.

Often, these events include slide decks and projectors. Props and instruments.

But when Paikin came to the stage, he crossed his sneakered feet, and had the audience hooked from his first words. "It's great to see so many of you," he said. "For the next little while, I'd like to take you back, on a journey."

Paikin was there to discuss his new book: *The Man Behind the Myth: An Intimate Biography of John Turner*. Not everyone would recognize the name of Canada's 17th prime minister. To others, he's a legend.

He held the title of prime minister for a mere 79 days.

But that wasn't all that put him on the map. In his book, Paikin set out to change the myth around the idea that Turner was "born with a silver spoon in his mouth."

In reality, his early days were wrought with tragedy, with his father dying from sudden complications on the surgery table, and his mother losing an infant child in their native country of England.

As their lives crashed around them, Turner's mother sought solace in her home province of British Columbia. Here, she took it upon herself to write to the prime minister of Canada at the time, R.B. Bennett, stating that she would like a job.

And, in a stark contrast to the happenings of the modern world, she gets a reply from Bennett, encouraging her to come to Ottawa so they can meet. She brings Turner and his sister to the nation's capital, where she becomes the highest ranking female civil servant of the day. A fighter in her blood.

"People think that Turner's story started in Ottawa," said Paikin. "But they seem to forget the tragedy that came before."

Paikin went on to share the trajectory of Turner's career in politics: a Member of Parliament at the age of 33, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Affairs, his loss at the 1968 leadership convention, where he was snubbed out by half a percentage in the votes to none other than Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

But upon his leadership loss to Trudeau Sr., he was appointed as Minister of Justice to his cabinet, where, as Paikin noted, "three big things happened."

Turner streamlined and simplified the divorce process, which previously required couples to petition to Parliament with the acknowledgement of infidelity or abuse. Next, he legalized abortion. Not only that, but he provided access for safe, therapeutic abortions for those in need. Paikin noted that this was revolutionary, as Turner was a staunch and devout Catholic. But he recognized the need for safety and protection of women's rights, and put that priority on the forefront.

Lastly, he navigated the October Crisis of 1970, warranting 24-hour protection during the national turmoil. "The attention of the country was very focused," said Paikin.

After his stint as the Minister of Justice, Turner changed gears to become the Minister of Finance, and lead the country out of a recession, and into a time of relative economic peace and stability.

But by 1975, the relationship between Turner and Trudeau began to sour, resulting in Turner resigning from the role. He spent the next decade in the private sector, racking up cash and avoiding political confrontations.

In 1984, Pierre Trudeau took a very famous walk in the snow, and made the decision to resign as prime minister, so Turner once again threw his hat in the ring for the leadership role. He beat out future Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in the process.

And in a situation very similar to current Prime Minister Mark Carney assuming the role recently, Turner became Canada's 17th prime minister.

But Paikin noted that Turner was rusty. His French had waned, he was out of practice from a picketing and fundraising standpoint, and he didn't have the same popularity that kept him afloat all those years ago. As soon as he was sworn in, Turner called a snap election. "All these years later," reflected Paikin, "and I still don't know why he did that."

Between the Liberal Patronage scandal and Turner's disconnect from the everyday people of the country, he didn't stand a chance against Brian Mulroney, who won the largest majority government in Canadian history that year.

Turner tried again in 1988, and brought the polls closer with the free trade debate that hovered around the Canada/U.S. relationship (sound familiar?), but ultimately lost as the result of a smear campaign from the Conservatives, securing the second majority government for Mulroney; a feat that hadn't taken place since the Conservative days of John A. Macdonald.

Turner was done. Chrétien stepped in as the leader of the Liberal party, and Turner sunk into a depression. It wasn't until he contacted an old friend, who redirected him to a life of advocacy and education. "For his final act of life, he chose to champion the importance of young people running for office," said Paikin. "That became his mission for the rest of his life."

The lifelong politician travelled all over the country, speaking to everyone and anyone he could, about the value of democracy, and the role of politics in modern society. "He would say, 'democracy doesn't happen by itself, we need to participate,'" shared Paikin, referencing a favourite Turner line.

Despite having a binder dedicated to his funeral plans, Turner unfortunately died during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a small funeral for the larger-than-life personality. Paikin noted that despite all the ins and outs of Turner's life, all the highs and lows and ups and downs, this was the part that made him the saddest. "He deserved a lot more than what he got at the end," he said.

Paikin concluded the night with questions and answers from the crowd; some of which were in reference to his book, with others hovering around the future of public television, and the current political climate. He answered each question with ease, kindness, and a touch of humour.

There was a warm, palpable energy to the room. There's something to be said about a space where hundreds can gather around the topic of politics, without getting political. Surely there were varying ideologies, beliefs, and priorities in that room. But those never came to the surface. Instead, it was a celebration of the past, and an optimism for the future political landscape; with people who care in their corners.

"You really are the epitome of what a great Canadian should be," said one attendee, as the sky began to darken outside and drinks were reaching the bottom of their glasses.

And thank goodness for that.

Because if there's one thing that stresses out journalists, it's covering the work of another journalist.

Public health reports another measles case near Haliburton County

JAMES MATTHEWS

Journalist

Local public health officials have warned about more recent exposures to measles.

The Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough public health unit has received confirmation of a positive measles case within the City of Kawartha Lakes. The resident is a fully vaccinated adult with exposure originating from close contact with a previously confirmed measles case from another region.

The public health unit is actively following up individuals identified as having been at the Dollarama in Lindsay on May 30 from 3 to 5 p.m., the Lindsay Square Mall on May 31 from 1 to 4 p.m., Hair Tones Salon May 31 from 1 until 3:45 p.m., and the Dunsford District Elementary School on May 28 and May 29 both days from 3 until 8 p.m.

Officials urge people who have been at those locations during the cited times to consider their vulnerability and their need for post-exposure care.

"If you were at the exposure location during the date and time listed and are considered immunocompromised, unvaccinated (including children under the age of one year) or pregnant, contact the health unit to assess eligibility and need for post-exposure care," according to a press release.

People should monitor for symptoms. Stay home if symptoms are developed and do not attend work or school. Contact the health unit if signs or symptoms are developed.

Public health has to be notified if it is believed you have measles.

Measles is a highly contagious virus spread through coughing and sneezing that can live for up to two hours in the air. Symptoms begin seven days to 21 days after infection and may include fever of 38.8 Celsius or greater, cough, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability, red and watery eyes, small white spots with white centres known as Koplik's spots on the inside of the mouth and throat.

There will also be a red, blotchy rash three to seven days after symptoms start.

"Although people who get sick from measles usually recover without treatment, it is important to consider measles can be severe for those who are immunocompromised, including infants, pregnant women, and those with existing medical concerns," according to the press release.

Possible complications of contracting measles include middle ear infections, pneumonia, swelling of the brain, and occasionally death in young children.

The best way to protect against measles is through vaccination.

Two doses of measles-containing vaccine, which include MMR or MMRV is over 97 per cent effective in preventing a measles infection. The measles vaccine is a publicly funded, routine childhood vaccine in Ontario.

Community members born in 1970 or after are advised to have two doses of measles-containing vaccine. Adults born before 1970 are generally considered protected against measles.

Adults born before 1970 who work in certain healthcare settings may be recommended to receive the measles vaccine.

Senior Seminars encourages connection and resiliency, says Schmale

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

In 2023, June officially became Seniors Month in Ontario. In celebration of Seniors Month, Member of Parliament (MP) Jamie Schmale and Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Laurie Scott have announced that Seniors Seminars will be returning to Haliburton on Wednesday, June 25.

"The Seniors Seminars are a meaningful way to recognize and celebrate the many contributions of seniors in our community, especially during Seniors Month," said Scott. "These events are not only an expression of appreciation, but they also help connect seniors with programs, services, and supports that promote healthy, active, and independent living. The seminars are informative, empowering, and deeply rooted in community engagement."

Throughout the seminar, presentations form local community organizations and government organizations will inform seniors of navigating the health care system, protecting themselves against scams, and community programs to keep seniors engaged.

"It's a great opportunity for them to come together, learn new skills on a wide range of mediums, and to make everlasting memories with each other," said Schmale.

"The strong collaboration behind the Senior Seminars speaks volumes about the spirit of Haliburton. It reflects a community that values inclusion, and shared responsibility," said Scott. "When local organizations come together to support our seniors, it shows that Haliburton is a place where people look out for one another."

Visitors to the seniors seminar will also be provided with a complimentary lunch.

"When we see local organizations, volunteers, businesses, and residents all coming together like this, it speaks volumes about the strength and resilience of our community," said Schmale. "It's a reminder that when we work together, we can tackle challenges, support one another, and build something truly meaningful."

With over 35 per cent of Haliburton County's population being 65 and older, that demographic is increasing every year. Without seniors, many community organizations would not be able to run within the county.

"Seniors in Haliburton County are active contributors to many facets of community life," said Scott. "Their involvement in groups like the Royal Canadian Legion, Canoe FM, Rotary Clubs, Food Banks, SIRCH, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Meals on Wheels, and various volunteer and faith-based organizations helps build a more connected, resilient, and compassionate community. Whether it's mentoring, volunteering, or serving in leadership roles, their efforts have helped shape the region we know today."

In Haliburton County, seniors are the pillar of our community. They are keepers of local history, culture, and values, says Scott.

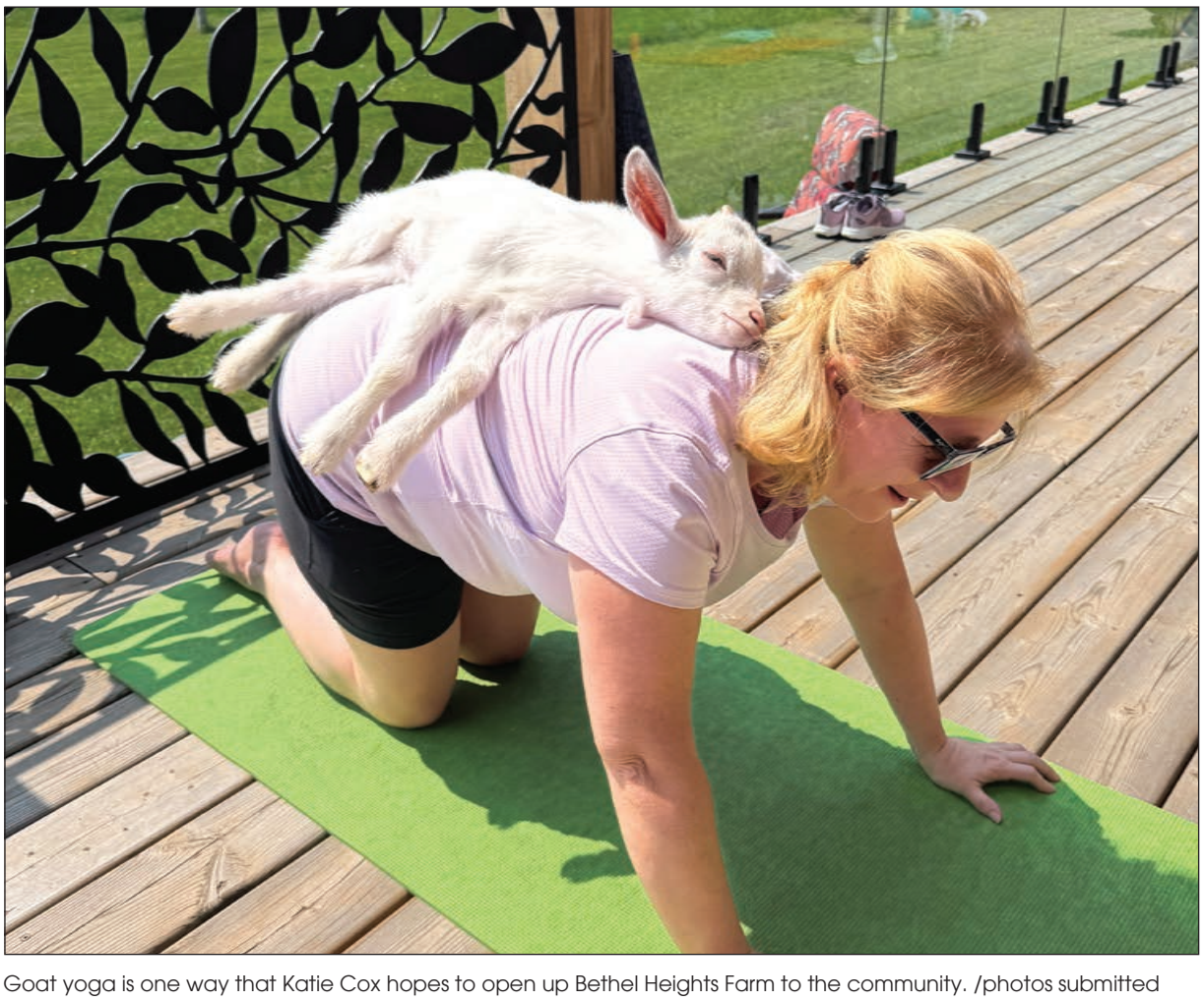
"The new Haliburton Senior Active Living Centre, the Seniors Community Grant Program, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grants are some of the provincial programs that are helping better serve seniors in Haliburton County," said Scott. "Seniors are a valued and important demographic who continue to meaningfully contribute to our community and culture."

"Seniors play a crucial role in the Haliburton community," said Schmale. "Many of them have worked hard their entire lives to build the Canada we enjoy today."

With presentations by the OPP and health services, the event hopes to raise awareness of access to health care and to prevent seniors from falling for scams.

"Unfortunately, many seniors are underserved," said Schmale. "Each day, seniors are facing challenges related to health care access, affordable housing, and financial security - especially those on fixed incomes. That's why it's so important we focus on community-based solutions to ensure our seniors can live with dignity and comfort."

All interested participants are asked to call 705-324-6654 to register for participation in the seminar.

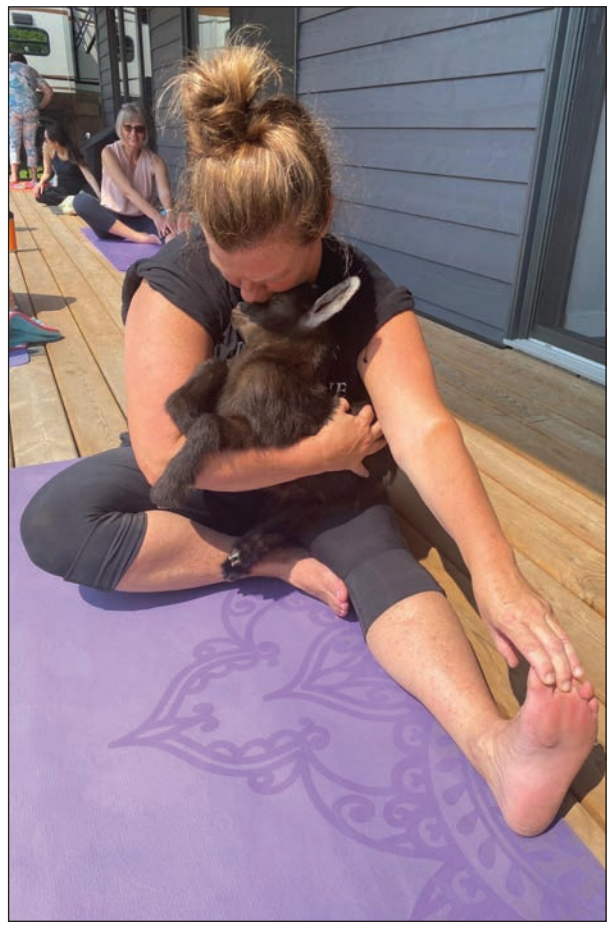


Goat yoga is one way that Katie Cox hopes to open up Bethel Heights Farm to the community. /photos submitted

Goat yoga comes to county

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor



All are welcome to join in on the goat yoga fun, alongside five recently-born goats who call Bethel Heights home.

Goats and yoga … a match made in heaven?

Some would agree. Particularly Meghan Cox and Katie Cox - two cousins who have combined their passions to offer an experience that visitors won't soon forget.

"It's so good for the soul," said Meghan, who runs Just Movement Fitness in Minden. "It's fun, it's joyful, and it's playful."

Meghan and Katie's fathers were brothers, and the cousins grew up on Bethel Heights Farm. The property was owned by their grandfather and has been passed down through the generations. In 2020, Katie started the process of severing the 164 acres between the family members, and she began building her home on the property in 2021. "We lived in a trailer while we built," she chuckled, "with two kids, two cats, a dog, a rabbit, some chickens and three baby ducks in tow."

And Katie is committed to farm life. In the past, she has offered a number of events on-site, including a variety of Hike Haliburton guided tours. "I loved growing up on a farm and wanted the same for my family," she said. "I love being able to share some of that farm life experience with people who may never get an opportunity to have hands-on experience with animals."

Meghan lives just down the road. "We have always been kindred spirits," said Meghan. "So to be back on this property is really special. And just to work with Kate again."

In a world where political tension is high and our screens are constantly flooded with bad news, the Cox cousins wanted to offer something that would bring joy to the community.

And the timing worked out well, with Katie welcoming a litter of five baby goats this past spring, the first to be born on the farm. Their presence adds to the pot belly pigs, chickens, ducks, turkeys and honey bees who call the property home.

Meghan had seen the premise of goat yoga or puppy yoga online before, but hadn't tried offering herself. So as the warm weather rolled around, they saw their chance.

"My style of yoga is more focused on stretching as opposed to flow or sequence," said Meghan, "and with the goats, the mindfulness piece isn't necessarily there, but it's still just fun."

The first goat yoga was held last week, and Meghan shared that the baby goats approach the yoga enthusiasts for snacks and cuddles. "We're really here for the goats," she laughed. "They're animals, so they're a bit unpredictable."

She noted that this context would be a good starter class for anyone intimidated by the concept of proper yoga, as it's laid back, supportive, and filled with joy. Meghan recommends that participants bring a towel and a water bottle, as well as their own mats. The event is outdoors, but natural bug spray is provided for participants.

The next goat yoga will be held at Bethel Heights Farm, between Minden and Haliburton, on June 20. More information can be found at www.justmovementfitness.com.

"We are definitely not a large or profitable farm but we have all the heart required," said Katie, "and would not be possible without the help of the entire family."

Local OPP board well ahead other centres: chair

JAMES MATTHEWS
Journalist

You want to know who is watching the watchers?

That role is in the laps of members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment board. It's the body that has an oversight role of the local detachment commander, but it doesn't direct the commander.

Andrew Fletcher, the board's chairperson, introduced Haliburton County council to the ins and outs of the organization and how it came to be during council's June 11 meeting.

The provincial government introduced the Community Safety in Policing Act in 2019 that governs policing throughout Ontario. It was basically a means to update the former Police Services Act that had been on the books since 1990.

The stroking difference in the new legislation is that it creates a modern policing framework and embraces civilian governance.

"Which was key to the new Act," Fletcher said.

A keen focus on civilian governance is illustrated by way of new sections to the legislation that deals with public complaints, community safety and wellbeing, and officer discipline and termination.

Some of the sections of the new rules were staggered as far as their commencement date. But the whole legislation came into effect April 2024.

Each board helps shape a local action plan that meets the needs of its community and works with a number of local community groups.

"Although small and new, we're well ahead of some of the other OPP boards throughout the province getting things in place that need to be in place," Fletcher said. "But we've got a lot of work ahead of us."

Staffing is another facet that has to be looked at in the detachment, whether there are the numbers needed to meet the need.

"The focus of the board is what our community needs, doing some consultation, and looking at community engagement as a key piece to that action plan from a proactive standpoint as opposed to a reactive standpoint," he said. "Getting the officers out of the cars and into the community and engaging with the community as much as they can."

Previously, a detachment commander or police service chief would bring a budget to a former police services board that would then take that spending plan to a municipal council.

"With an OPP detachment board, it's a little bit different," he said.

The budget is a multi-year creation of the provincial government, and then the municipal impact is considered.

"And the municipal impact for us is really two pieces," Fletcher said. "One is the base cost which is shared equally among each of the municipalities. And then a fee based on calls for service within the communities."

Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Highlands East, asked if board members or council members will have any input into the police budget for the area.

"We don't have a tremendous say in the creation of the overall budget for the OPP," Fletcher said. "What we can have an impact on is the local impacts here. If we feel that we need for staffing to address the community needs, then that comes with a price tag.

"Every officer for every call for service, that's a demand for service, we can then work with the OPP Finance Bureau to say that's not attainable for us or we can do that if there is some other offsetting provincial funding."

The larger costs such as human resources, administrative and legal costs are set by the province.

Coun. Walt McKechnie, the deputy mayor at Dysart, said it's a great idea to have officers out of the cars and on the streets more. Local townships have been talking about that for a long time, he said.

"Are they hiring a few more police?" McKechnie said. "And how are we going to get them out of their cars, walking around our streets, and making their presence?"

Fletcher said the Haliburton Highlands detachment is challenged in that it is considered to be small with a large geographical area. Staffing levels is determined by the number of calls for service.

The exact number of staffing at detachments is a confidential number for the OPP. But there is a kind of formula.

"As we all know in this county, the demand for service in January is very different than the demand for service in July and August," Fletcher said. "So they have to take the entire year and look at the calls for service and the demand for that service and then find what they believe is a suitable number of staffing."

He said there is a hope that the nature of calls will be considered and used as an indicator of staff level.

"Do we need to be attending all those calls?" Fletcher said. "Are there some alternate approaches to those calls for service? Alarm calls, for example, or some of the other complaints might be better handled by a bylaw officer rather than a police officer."

He said supplemental officers could be requested and acquired during peak times of the year, but that comes with a cost.

"And there's a section of the Act that does allow us to do that but allows us to then pay for those services as they're needed from another detachment," he said.

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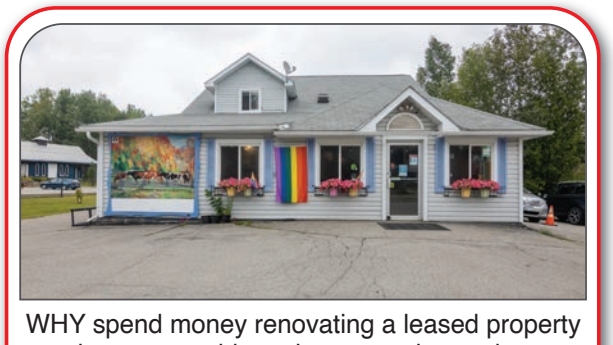
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Colours

NEARLY EVERY Canadian would recognize Steve Paikin. His face has graced the screens of CBC and TVO for decades, and he was the moderator of the English debate during the last federal election, and many before that.

His life is deeply entwined with Canadian politics. He lives and breathes for the past, present, and future of political changemakers.

When he spoke to a sold-out room last Thursday at the Pinestone, he spent over two hours discussing politics to an audience who hung on his every word.

It was politics, but it wasn't political.

As I drove away from the venue; a new sense of journalistic integrity and a spark for committing to sharing local news stories, I realized that I had no idea what his own political leanings are.

And that's rare.

We live in a world where politics is pigeonholed and brought to the table in many contexts. And while there is tremendous value to unpacking the propagandistic tendencies of political leanings, perhaps it adds a label to an individual not necessarily warranted.

I have been accused of taking a left-wing stance in many of my editorials; adding accountability and blame to the Conservative side of things.

But that's because locally, they're the ones in power. And I haven't been happy with what I've been seeing. Many aren't. I don't agree with the actions of Doug Ford, with the priorities of the Conservative Party, with the direction they are taking our province, and the future of our people.

And I strongly disagree with parties who lean even further to the right, mitigating human rights and peppering their platforms with hoaxes and conspiracies.

But I realized during the Paikin talk, that if the roles of power were reversed, I'd likely have things to say about those parties in power as well - even if they had left-leaning tendencies, which have traditionally been more aligned with my personal beliefs.

And that got me thinking about the people behind the politics. We add names and party colours to people in an effort to create a sense of structure and organization to a world that would otherwise be murky.

But perhaps identifying those parties and waving those flags is keeping us on this streamlined path of dichotomization. A clear cut red or blue, black or white.

Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

Paikin stood up to talk about the people behind the politics, without adding his own weight to it. He didn't need to. And while I strongly support standing up for what you believe in with conviction and purpose, I wonder if sometimes we get lost in the colours.

This is why municipal elections are so important. The party colours are absent, and in their place, stands one solo person. One individual not tied to an organized framework of thought, but rather, core beliefs and a thrum of passion to make this community a better place to live.

When we take a step back and take off our political 3D glasses; lenses that show only blue and red, we need to look at the people behind the politics, behind the parties, and take into consideration who puts other people first.

It's not red, blue, green or orange. Values and priorities and missions and passions can weave and wander and traipse and turn throughout all colours of the spectrum.

A role model

Content warning: please note that this column contains depictions of sexual assault.

I'M LIKELY not the only person who cringes as they read about what took place in a London hotel room in 2018 between a girl and a bunch of adolescent hockey players that is now being poked and pried to establish culpability in what, by any measure and for all involved, is a dehumanizing story. How did we get here? How can we turn back?

I am struck that E.M., the then 20-year-old woman in this scenario, explains that when consensual sex turned into what we used to call a 'gang bang', she took on the persona of a porn queen. She doesn't deny that she taunted the men, and agreed in the moment that her participation was consensual, all of which clashes with our idea of the behaviour of a rape victim. But I guess – I'm dismally out of touch with porn – that's how porn queens behave, by being sexually aggressive.

Poke, Peel

Fay Martin

Pair, Ponder

My wonder is what E.M.'s options were, in the circumstances, for role models. Every other movie and lots of books offer role models for consensual casual sex, and from my very limited and second-hand expertise, the evidence to date suggests she and her chosen sex partner played their parts appropriately. The phone call inviting the bros in for a quick three-way was not in that script. What script is it?

An essay by Christine Emba in the *New York Times* weekend insert of May 25, 2025 supports E.M's suggestion that it is a porn script, featuring 'porn-trained behaviours – the choking, slapping and spitting that have become the norm even in early sexual encounters'. Emba cites a 2019 British study that found 38 per cent of British women under 40 had experienced those behaviours. She claims porn is omnipresence and accessible; it's on 12 per cent of websites and porn bots pop up regularly on several platforms. She worries "porn will become more addictive and effective as a teacher, as virtual reality makes it more immersive and artificial intelligence allows it to be more customizable." She also says Gen Z is more willing to criticize porn than their elders. Maybe the silence of older generations is because, like me, porn is a world they know little of and have no wish to know more.

That is, I think, a generational abandonment – not the only one, not the one Greta Thunberg took us to task for, but actually a related one. The poisoning of our ethos is as destructive of our humanity as the poisoning of our planet is of our existence. The good news? It can be more quickly corrected. We could fell the enemy with incisive regulation, decisive implementation and diligent surveillance. And we would do that, I think, if the enemy wore jack boots and carried an Uzi and visibly threatened our children, our women, our humanity. But because the poison is dripped into hearts and minds in the intimate space between a screen and a viewer, between mind and mind, we hold our fire. We wait for what we recognize as evidence of wrongdoing.

I think we have it. I think we are seeing it play out before Judge Maria Carrioccia in the London courtroom. For sure we saw it when a French court in Avignon, France, found that 72-year-old Gisèle Pelicot had been drugged unconscious and repeatedly raped over nine years by her husband and a motley crew of 50 other men invited through a website. Husband filmed it. To share, perhaps, as his contribution to pornography?

Why don't we do something? Because we see these as isolated incidents, unfortunate examples of evil men, boys pumped up on the testosterone of hockey fame. Because we count on women baring themselves in excruciating nakedness and vulnerability before a court system that doesn't do mercy. Because at some level we kinda think that women are a danger best kept cornered.

I think women may well be a danger: we all know to not get between a Mama bear and her cub. In the same *New York Times* as Emba's essay on pornography was an article by Annie Roth on Bonobos, the great apes that share 99 per cent of our DNA. They live in a female-dominated society that "make a lot of love in addition to war. They carry out rather heavy petting, make sex toys and engage in homosexual intercourse." But when male Bonobos misbehave, retribution is swift and collaborative. "From 1993 to 2021, the researchers observed 1786 instances of a male starting trouble with a female. Examples included acting aggressively toward a female or her infant, or monopolizing food. In roughly 61 per cent of these fights, the females teamed up with other females and emerged victorious." And they meant business. "On a few occasions, [the researchers] suspect[ed] that the male died as a result of the attack."

Hey, I like that role model of female aggression much better than porn queen. Let's talk it up with the E.M's of the world.

points of view

Stick and stones

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

WHEN PEOPLE think about dangerous animals, they tend to envision creatures like elephants, hippos, lions, tigers, leopards, cougars, crocodiles, whales, hyenas, gorillas, chimps, bears, poisonous snakes, Komodo dragons, sharks, and wolves. I'm here to tell that the peril those animals pose is child's play when compared to the damage a happy dog with the right stick can do.

Last week, I was reminded of this.

I knew it could happen, but, of course, I did not think it would happen to me. So, when my dog Rosie ran up the hill carrying a stick that was four-feet long and one-inch in diameter, I did not take the necessary precautions – partly because there was no groin protector in sight. Instead, I welcomed her, with open arms.

I don't know what came over me. For there was my best friend and imminent threat sitting a mere 18 inches away, looking very proud, and waving a long whippy stick unpredictably at crotch level.

And all I could think was, "Aw, that's cute."

Even so, I still believe I might have escaped unscathed, if not for that darn crow.

You see, that evil bird waited until Rosie was in exactly within perfect striking range – with the end of the stick hovering just below my zipper. It was only then that it let out a loud and startling caw.

I have never been fond of crows.

Nor is Rosie. Which is why this caused a disastrous chain of events that began with Rosie quickly turning her head towards the crow. This caused the end of the stick to move at an accelerated speed towards my, let's call it, undercarriage. Contact was quickly made, and soon I found myself yelping in a high-pitched manner and possibly communicating with a distant wolf pack. This, in turn was Rosie's cue to look away, and then back at the crow, which caused the entire cycle to repeat itself.

The good news is I am no longer wishing I had an ice pack. The bad news is we have an entire forest floor filled with similar or even more dangerous sticks out there.

Was there any silver lining to any of this? I mean aside from my newfound talent for hitting the high notes.

Well, yes.

You see, at moments like these, if we are lucky, we have friends to console us and make us realize our problems are not as bad as we convince ourselves they are.

In this case, the call came from my best friend Tom, who listened as I told him about my unfortunate incident. Tom is a good listener too. He winced in all the right places. He reminded me that I didn't want any more kids anyways. He assured me that the Post Traumatic Stick Disorder would one day not strike whenever I hear a batter hit a home run.

Then, when all that was done, he confided in me about a similar incident that happened to him just two weeks ago, with his dog.

Just like that I understood the phrase "misery loves company."

Better yet, once he had finished his story, I was reminded of the old saying, "Things can always be worse."

You see my friend's recounting made me realize how lucky I was.

His dog was a powerful rottweiler and the stick was much bigger.

pic *of the* past

Pictured, lumber scalers stand upon a large pile of recently sawn logs in 1950. Logging has long been a primary industry for the Haliburton Highlands, with early settlers struggling to meet agricultural needs in light of the rocky terrain. Both Haliburton Village and Minden were built around primary logging centres. /FILE

Laurel

Tales from the great Green meadow

Lynda Shadbolt

THIS IS a love letter from the 49 of us women who sang in the 2024/2025 Voices Rising Choir. A love letter to our conductor, Laurel McCauley who started this choir in 2011 and has been welcoming women of all singing abilities and experiences to sing together on Thursday afternoons ever since.

Thank you Laurel for everything. For attending Winter Folk Camp in the winter of 2011 and working with Georgette Fry, who had a franchise of choirs across the province called Shout Sister. You attended her choir at the camp, saw an opportunity for our county and acted on it. You saw the goodness of women being given the opportunity to learn and sing together, even if they couldn't read music or had never been on a stage in their life.

You patiently showed up every week and laughed with us, and believed in us even when we thought we would never have the words memorized for the annual performance. You never doubted us. You believe in the power of singing together through the good times and through the hard times.

As a choir we have sung at celebrations of life. We've performed in the long term care homes every year. We've attended special events and taken our joy into the community. We are meant to sing together. It brings us a sense of belonging and connection to each other and to our community. Every voice does matter, even the ones who are shy and sing quietly for a while.

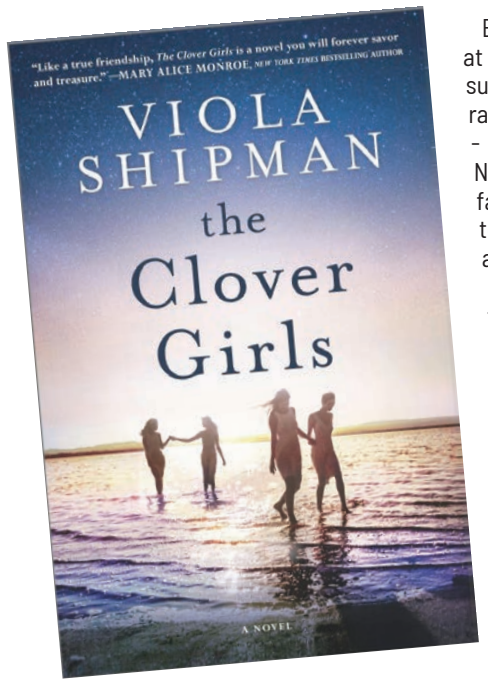
Your kindness and encouragement has always brought out the best in us. Every year we have had a final concert/celebration, and all of the net profits from the evening have been given to a charity in our county. Thank you for helping us to be generous and to support so many causes.

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services was the recipient of our donation a couple of weeks ago. All of us believe in the power of singing for the wellbeing of all. Desmond Tutu, a South African Anglican Archbishop, once said "Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Laurel, you are stepping down as the conductor of the choir and moving into the alto section. You have given us so much and it has impacted our worlds. You started with 24 women in 2011 and have grown. We all want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your vision and dedication built this choir and now you are handing it over to the very talented and delightful Jocelyn Regina who will carry on with helping us sing and laugh and be joyful together. We are excited to sing with you and look forward to spreading more joy and love in our county. P.S. Eventually Laurel and the choir pivoted away from Shout Sister and became Voices Rising. Our voices are rising! And will continue to rise. Thank you Laurel. For everything. With love from the Voices Rising Choir.

Minden Memories

Sam Gilbert was 86 when this picture was taken at his residence in the Gelert/Lochlin area. Despite his dishevelled look, he proudly showed off his thick hair. He spent much of his life north of Minden, where he served as postmaster in the community of Elsie, named after his youngest daughter. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week


"Like a true friendship, The Clover Girls is a novel you will forever savor and treasure."—MARY ALICE MONROE, NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
VIOLA SHIPMAN
the Clover Girls
A NOVEL

Elizabeth, Veronica, Rachel, and Emily met at Camp Birchwood in 1985, where over four summers they were the Clover Girls - inseparable during those magical weeks of freedom - until the final summer pulled them apart. Now, approaching middle age, the women face challenges they never imagined as teens, struggling with marriages, careers, and their sense of identity.

Then Liz, V, and Rachel each receive a letter from Emily with devastating news. She asks them to reunite at Camp Birchwood one last time, to revisit the dreams they left behind and mend their fractured bonds. But they are no longer the confident girls who once ruled the camp, and some friendships may not be built to last.

The Clover Girls by Viola Shipman is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Lauren Margison wins Elizabeth Cornell Prize

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Lauren Margison, renowned Canadian soprano and local legend, has won the 2025 Elizabeth Connell Prize International Singing Competition.

Competing at London's Royal Academy of Music, the competition's jurors included Dame Anne Evans D.B.E., James Black, Bernadette Cullen, David Gowland, Fiona Janes, and Simon O'Neill ONZM.

Margison submitted a video of her performing to enter in the competition, along with a resume of her past performances.

She was the sole Canadian to join the semi-finalists. After seeing the list, the thought of representing Canada was on her mind the entire week.

"The level was so high," said Margison.

After her performance on June 8, she took home the trophy and 15,000 British pound prize, marking her as the first Canadian to win the Elizabeth Connell Prize.

"It is wonderful to have outside validation from people you respect," she said.

Margison says that the prize money will be put back into her career in order to pay for flights to auditions, accommodations, and coaching.

She acknowledges the support of her family and how the Haliburton community has enabled her to pursue her dreams. She says winning the Elizabeth Connell Prize has renewed her tenacity to forge ahead and continue performing in opera.

Margison has performed across North America and Europe. Landing leading roles in *Otello*, *Carmen*, and *Pagliacci*, she is currently riding the high from her recent performance as Mimi in Puccini's *La Boheme* at Opéra de Montréal'.

Margison returned to Opéra de Montréal having performed with them from 2016 to 2018.

"To come back in the leading role of one of my favourite operas was a fantastic experience," she said.

Margison says that Mimi is a character that she relates to easily. A lover of art, poetry, and all things romantic and beautiful, getting into Mimi's head was not difficult for her. However, the physicality of a character slowly dying from tuberculosis required a lot of effort on her part.

Lauren Margison won first place in the Elizabeth Connell prize this year, the first Canadian to ever bring home the prestigious award. /submitted

The character would collapse and then get back up and sing. Margison says that falling in a controlled manner requires a lot of core support and spatial awareness. To get back up again and again, it requires more stamina than audience members may expect.

In preparation for the role, Margison sought to increase her cardio performance through hiking.

"Be sure of your technique," said Margison. "Cardio is so important for a singer."

In addition to stamina, cardio training assists with breath control, vital for a singer's performance.

Highlands Opera Studio alumni Andrea Núñez also performed in *La Boheme* alongside Margison.

"Andrea is one of my best friends," said Margison. "It is always a pleasure to perform alongside her."

She says that before every performance, all that goes through her mind is the yearning to get out on-stage and perform for an audience.

"You can only do your best and your best is different every single day," said Margison. "Every chance you have to perform in a big theatre gives you new insight to the subtleties and necessities for performing."

Margison plans on utilizing her experience while mentoring with the Highlands Opera Studio in Haliburton. This year, she is offering pay-what-you-can singing lessons, and is mentoring for their new pilot project LET'S MAKE OPERA! Working with the Highlands Opera Studio lets her take a breather, while being surrounded with the best in the business.

"It is an incredible program," said Margison. "I have made friends for life through the Highlands Opera Studio."

Margison is excited to share what she has learned through performing on some of Canada's biggest opera stages. She is proud to be able to teach the next generation of opera singers in the beauty of Haliburton County.

She wants to encourage youth from Haliburton County to pursue their dreams in the arts.

"Just keep at it," said Margison. "If you love something and have the drive to pursue the arts in any capacity, dream big."

She hopes to perform at the biggest international opera houses one day, including Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, or the Sydney Opera House.

"Some of my fondest memories will always be performing with the Highlands Opera Studio," she said.

Margison's next performances include the Victoria Symphony and Pacific Opera Victoria on July 24 at The Butchart Gardens in Brentwood Bay, British Columbia. On Aug. 2, she will be performing at the Koerner Hall in Toronto in collaboration with the International Congress of Voice Teachers.

Craft spirit company finds its footing in Minden

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

George Kaplun and his mother, Elvina own and operate Denna Lake Spirits from Toronto and their home in Minden. /submitted

George Kaplun, founder of Denna Lake Spirits has been in the service industry for his entire adult career. After leaving Ukraine, Kaplun and his family stayed in Israel before they were allowed to move to Canada.

Graduating high school in 2002, Laplum began serving at high end restaurants in Toronto. Soon after, Kaplun began an apprenticeship at the Banff Centre in Alberta.

Kaplun even took his learning of mixology abroad to Australia, New Zealand and Scotland.

In 2012, he wound up on King Street in Toronto, working for the legendary Charles Khabouth. Being at one of Khabouth's saloons at King and Spadina, his knowledge of spirits flourished in the downtown core, diving deep into aged cocktails and the importance of barrel aging.

"It was time to move on and I wanted to know how to distill," said Kaplun.

After 20 years of working behind the bar, Kaplun needed to get his hands dirty making his own craft spirits. Graduating from college in Kelowna, Kaplun moved back to Banff to work at Park Distillery.

Using Nickel Nine Distillery's facilities in the Junction, Kaplun distills his own grain spirits. Using the neutral grain spirits, he infuses them with things like raisins and dried apricots to make their raisin and apricot gin, strawberries for their strawberry vodka, and horseradish for their horseradish vodka.

Only Canadian grain is used for the mash when distilling and when possible, fresh ingredients are purchased from Ontario farms.

When you purchase a flavour-infused alcohol from the LCBO, most of the time it is a clear spirit. Kaplun feels that infused alcohols should reflect their contents. For example, blueberry vodkas should appear blue.

With the recent increase in alcohol prices and restrictions for imports of American goods, Kahlua is no longer for sale at the LCBO. While Kahlua is owned by a French company and operates out of Mexico, the supply chain for the Canadian market uses an American-based shipping facility.

To fill this void, Kaplun is working on creating a coffee liquor for the Ontario market.

Coventry gin, his signature spirit, was initially made due to Kaplun's distaste for gins. Seeking out creating a gin for his own palette, Coventry Gin was the first liquor he created.

"I made a gin for myself. I like to drink my stuff straight so I put in fresh lemongrass and ginger," said Kaplun. "No Christmas tree taste."

The name Coventry was thought of after Kaplun observed rich men aggressively harass women at bars. He wanted the name to evoke a sense of high class and for women to be able to enjoy the gin, ostracized away from aggressive men.

For Hook, Line and Sinker in Haliburton, Kaplun has created a strawberry vodka to serve at their bar and blueberry vodka for the former Rockcliffe Moore Falls.

Coventry rhubarb gin was created as an homage to his upbringings.

"Growing up in Ukraine you eat it like cucumber," recalled Kaplun.

His mother's favourite is his apricot and raisin gin, says Kaplun. She says that the flavour is close to ice wine.

When starting his craft spirit business, investors pulled out. His mother wanted to help her son with the business and quickly became his right hand man. Based in Minden, his mother assists Kaplun with marketing, product design, and other operations.

> *"We wanted to be the first spirits maker in the Haliburton area ..."*
>
> — George Kaplun, Denna Lake Spirits

As long-time cottagers for the past ten years, Kaplun knew at Denna Lake Spirits' inception that he wanted the name to pay homage to the place he loves the most, the family's cottage on Denna Lake Road.

"We wanted to be the first spirits maker in the Haliburton area," said Kaplun.

While splitting his time between his full-time career in Toronto, Kaplun frequently visits the county to sell his goods, network, and collaborate with establishments in the county for them to serve his spirits.

"When the time comes, I hope to pay myself a salary from this," said Kaplun. "That is my goal."

For now, Kaplun has found his niche in the Haliburton County area. You can already taste Denna Lake Spirits' products at several bars in the county.

He plans on keeping business local for now, with some select areas in his home base of Toronto. His products are made with Haliburton County in mind, for the people that have supported him the most.

"The people are great here," said Kaplun. "It is a very relaxing environment."

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Coach Paul Klose was honoured with this year's Impact Award, for his years of coaching wrestling.

Senior athletes of the year, Cheyenne Degeer and Graham Backus, were honoured on June 11 for their dedication to high school sports. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Athletes of the year named for Hal High

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It was a night of celebration, a night of stardom.

The 45th annual Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Athletic Banquet was held at the high school on June 10. Teacher Janice Scheffee kicked off the ceremony, noting that the school had 18 competing teams this year across the grades, including some new sports, such as girls rugby and ultimate frisbee. "You should all be very proud of yourselves," said Scheffee.

The coaches were called up individually to highlight the MVP of each team, with the occasional additional shout-out for players who exemplified leadership, growth, and positivity.

As per tradition, one coach was celebrated with the Impact Award. "There's a lot of things that go on behind the scenes," said Scheffee, "and a lot of our staff go above and beyond for our athletes."

But one in particular was celebrated that evening: Paul Klose. The long-time wrestling coach was recognized for his organizational skills, his drive, and his ongoing dry sense of humour. "Passion is what drives us through tough days, but humour is what gets us through," said Christianna Walker, a former wrestler and Hal High athlete of the year. "He shapes character, and builds passion."

The evening culminated with a celebration of the male and female athletes of the year; a prestigious award, which recognizes two senior students who exemplify leadership, accountability, and commitment to sport at the school.

Coach Jason Morissette took to the stage to present the female athlete of the year. "This goes to an extremely talented individual who takes athleticism to the next level," he started. "She may have been born with a sixth sense, telling her that there's a game on somewhere. Not only is she extremely talented, she loves sports, and exudes joy."

He introduced Cheyenne Degeer. A Grade 12 student who shone in volleyball, badminton, cross country, and track and field. She did all this, while playing the highest level of hockey, and was recently selected to lead Team Ontario during the Under 18 National Women's Hockey Championship. "She is a high performance athlete in every sport she plays," said Morissette. "It has been inspiring for all of us to help a generational talent."

Morissette noted that while excelling at sports through Hal High and playing professional hockey, Cheyenne maintained superb grades through school. "Her level of athleticism has turned heads since day one," he said. "She has been an incredible privilege to coach."

As a first-year hurdler, only trying the sport in her Grade 12 year, Cheyenne taught herself to jump with both legs. "This is one of the toughest races on the tracks," said Morissette. She won gold at COSSA in the race. "Our program is forever changed by her efforts."

Morissette gave a shout-out to the Degeer family, noting that Cheyenne's commitment to sport came at a cost. "Imagine the planning and focus to accomplish all of this," he said. "You are an inspiring role model for the youth all over Haliburton County."

Cheyenne will be attending St. Lawrence University in New York, where she will be playing for the university team with a scholarship for hockey.

The male athlete of the year was presented by teacher Mike Gaffney. "This athlete is a true competitor who knows what it takes to be a winner," he said. "He was always pushing to get better. He showed up to every practice and game totally locked in."

Graham Backus was given the nod for the award. A Grade 11 student - which is a rare occurrence - was celebrated for his commitment to sport, his commitment to his teams, and his dedication to constantly improving. "He has a strong athletic IQ," said Gaffey. "He's an all-around strong athlete and a good sport to have on the team."

Gaffney referred to Graham as "the heart of the team," for every team he was on. With a focus on track and field, Nordic skiing, and cross country, his skills were endless on the field.

The students were celebrated with their names on a trophy, which has every athlete of the year over the past 45 years. Their photos will be present on the wall of fame that adorns the corridors of the high school gym.

The following athletes were honoured at the ceremony:

Senior Boys Basketball
Most Valuable Player - Magnum Moshenko

Coaches Leadership Award - Logan Beers

Golf
Most Valuable Player - Vanek Logan

Girls Varsity Rugby
Most Valuable Player - Gracie Pockett

Most Valuable Player - Fallon Thorn

Girls Varsity Soccer
Most Valuable Player - Tea Yates

Junior Girls Volleyball
Most Valuable Player - Addy Parish

Most Valuable Player - Veronica Heasman

Senior Girls Volleyball
Most Valuable Player - Delilah Kaytar
Most Dedicated Player - Nicole Lee

Junior Girls Basketball
Most Valuable Player - Addy Parish

Senior Girls Basketball
Leadership Award - Tory Byrnes

Junior Boys Basketball
Most Valuable Player - Fynn Gooley
Most Improved Player - Ashtyn Leckie

Wrestling
Most Valuable Player - Ben McMahon
Most Valuable Player - Sadie Evans-Fockler

Jr. Badminton
Most Valuable Player - Hailey Smith
Most Valuable Player - Atticus Jorritsma

Sr. Badminton
Most Valuable Player - Lilly Casey
Most Valuable Player - Lara Gallant

Ultimate
Spirit of the Game - Will Burke

Cross Country Running
Most Valuable Player - Annika Gervais
Most Valuable Player - Brechin Johnston
Most Valuable Player - Violet Humphries

Senior Boys Volleyball
Most Valuable Player - Weston Bowker
Most Improved Player - Ethan Hullah

Nordic Skiing
Junior Most Valuable Player - Annika Gervais
Senior Most Valuable Player - Brechin Johnston
Most Improved Player - Grace Allder
Leadership Award - Erika Hoare

Junior Boys Volleyball
Most Valuable Player - Carlito Barbosa

Track and Field
Most Valuable Player - Fynn Gooley
Most Valuable Player - Addy Parish
Most Dedicated - Violet Humphries
Most Dedicated - Luke Gruppe
Most Improved - Ella Gervais
Most Improved - Isabella Valentini
Leadership Award - Erika Hoare
Leadership Award - Evan Backus
Leadership Award - Ben McMahon

Impact Award
Paul Klose

Major Award
Tea Yates
Cole Hamilton
Nathan Morrison
Emily Fitzell

Award of Excellence
Emery Bagshaw
Cheyenne Degeer
Teagan Hamilton
Erika Hoare
Nicole Lee
Alissa Mantle
Hannah Sharp
Haiden Bird

Rising Red Hawk
Vanek Logan
Hailey Smith

Senior Athlete of the Year
Graham Backus

Senior Athlete of the Year
Cheyenne Degeer

Tourism world welcomes local students

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Restaurant owner Molly McInerney gives a tour behind the scenes for interested high school students. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

"It's all about opportunities," said Darla Searle, the hospitality teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. "We want to show them what's out there."

Searle is leading a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program through Hal High, which is offered in collaboration with the Ontario Government, and focuses on giving students the opportunity to hone in on custom industries within the job force.

Through the program, senior students are required to complete a specific bundle of eight to ten courses in the student's selected field of study, earn industry standard certifications, such as first aid and CPR, as well as gain skills through co-op placements.

As a result, the students are able to gain real-life experience in the varied sectors across the county. "They don't necessarily have to be going into the industry," said Searle, "but it gives hands-on experience to the working world."

On June 12, over 20 students from the program embarked on a tourism-specific trek across the county. Organized by Eric Casper, the tourism coordinator for the County of Haliburton, the students started their day with a visit to Molly's Bistro Bakery in Minden.

Molly McInerney bought her first restaurant in 1977, when she was a mere 22 years old. She's been dedicated to the industry ever since, and continuously tied to Haliburton County. "Molly is a great example of evolving your business to meet the needs of the community," said Angelica Ingram, the manager of tourism for Haliburton County.

McInerney took the students on a behind-the-scenes tour of her well-known community hub in the heart of Minden. She answered questions about health inspectors, baked goods, and secret recipes.

Molly's was the first stop on the trip, with the next destination being the Haliburton Post House; a highly sought after destination in the heart of Ingoldsby, hosting weddings, conferences, and retreats. The Post House staff was joined by Kayla Gardiner, who is the lead for weddings at the Bonnie View Inn. The intention was to get students to hear firsthand what it's like to work in the tourism field.

"Tourism is one of the biggest industries up here," said Ingram. "And so many of these roles could be a gateway job into the world."

Searle agreed, noting that customer service skills, which are the heart and soul of the tourism world, are core developmental skills, applicable to any industry. "The skills are hugely transferable," she said. "It's the one industry where you can really follow your passion."

And there are jobs around the world, said Searle. "I could travel the world working in hospitality," she said, noting that all countries have some form of the service industry. "You could work your way around the world."

And it's not just serving and cooking. Ingram was quick to note that the tourism industry is a multi-faceted world, including marketing, promotions, and experience development.

There are so many avenues that she hopes to offer the hands-on experience every year. "This industry is always hiring," she said, noting the plethora of opportunities available locally. "And there are so many businesses we can feature through this."

Snow in the summer

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association held their first Open House event on Saturday, June 14. Hotdogs were served and tours of their facilities were given to guests. Volunteers were present to answer questions about the many groomed trails across the county, and to showcase the gear and machinery used to maintain the trails. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Haliburton County Fair

Mother Nature must have been on the organizing committee for this year's Haliburton County Fair, hosted at the Minden Fairgrounds. The sunny Saturday, June 14 welcomed hundreds of visitors from Haliburton County and beyond to visit animals, check out the horse pulls, listen to a variety of live music, and try some tasty treats. The fair is the signature events for kicking off summer in the Haliburton Highlands, and celebrates the agricultural spirit of the county. Pictured to the right, Ethan and Talia B. offer a cow a snack at the county fair. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Finley the Burmese python hangs out above the tent canopy at the Zoo to You booth.

Kain Campbell and his sister Wila had a blast at the county fair.

Haliburton County Fair

Cows, horses, live music, and a bouncy castle makes for a perfect day at the fair. /submitted

Lochlin United Church will be celebrating it's 100th year this November. /THOMAS SMITH staff

The Farewell service of Rev. G.C. Smyth from 1949. Helen Burk is pictured bottom left.

Lochlin United approaches centennial anniversary

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The United Church of Canada is not the only thing that is turning 100 this year.

In November, Lochlin United Church will also be celebrating its centennial. Its new cornerstone veneer was laid by Rev. J. M. Whyte in 1925, bridging the gap between its Methodist past and its future as the United Church of Canada.

The church has had many faces take the pastoral charge throughout the years. Readers may remember the likes of Rev. Rutherford, Rev. Clappison, and Rev. Nicholson.

Now, Harry Morgan leads the congregations of both Haliburton and Lochlin United Churches.

A lot has changed over the years, but no matter what, the Lochlin United Church remains a cultural gathering place for residents of Lochlin and the greater Haliburton County.

"Years ago, the church was the community centre for the community," said longtime congregation member Marie Baker. "I was christened in that church and went there my entire life."

In the past, the Lochlin Community Centre was the local school.

Baker says that her fondest memory of the church would have to be attending Sunday school. With excellent Sunday school teachers, she would get impatient every week waiting for Sundays to arrive.

Around this time of year in the past, Lochlin United hosted strawberry suppers, recalls Helen Burk, treasurer for Lochlin United.

Boar roasts during the year would keep men up the entire night adding wood to the fire to cook the meat for the church.

Bake sales, recipe book sales, soup sales, and church concerts kept the community vibrant and people connected. Christian Girls in Training met at the church, with young girls learning how to cook, sew, and study the Bible.

Burk says that her favourite memory with the church is her involvement with the Secret Pal program, and when Santa Claus would visit the church. The program incentivized connections between congregational members.

"It is the fellowship with the other members," said Burk. "I feel bad, there are less people coming to church and there are no kids."

While Lochlin United Church used to fill its pews, Burk says that they now have a fluctuating congregation of around 20 people.

"There aren't enough of us now," said Burk. "So we have to add more to the plate every Sunday."

With over 100 years of combined years of dedication to visiting the church, both Burk and Baker fear that Lochlin United may be closing soon.

"Ten years ago I would have said it would be closed by now," said Baker. "Young people just aren't interested anymore and that is reflected with all the churches closing."

Burk says that when the United Church began the affirming process, many congregation members stopped attending mass on Sundays.

> ***"Young people just aren't interested anymore and that is reflected with all the churches closing.***
>
> – Marie Baker, Lochlin congregation member

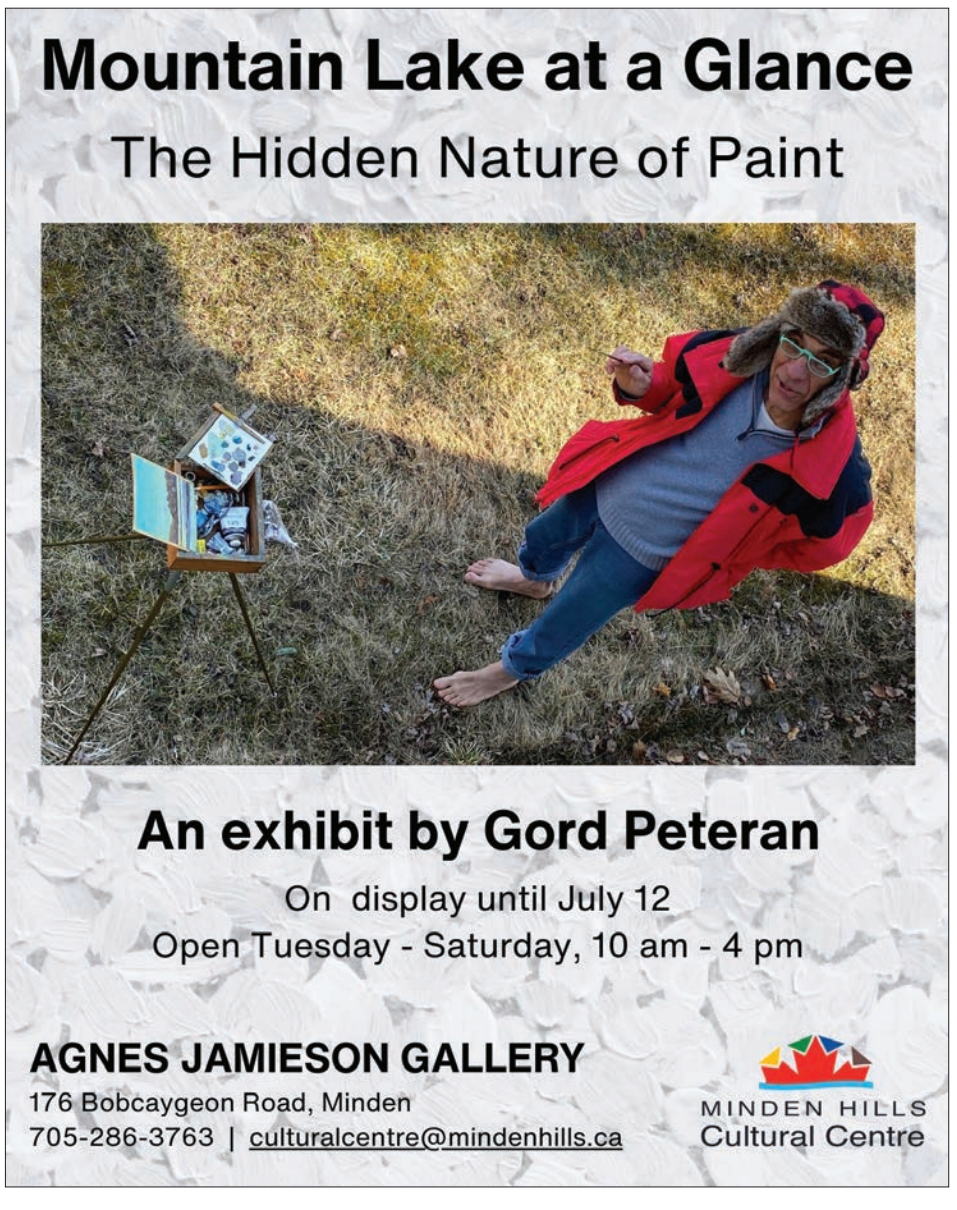
"I would say five years and it will be closed," said Burk.

Burk says that new people are moving to Lochlin every year. The best method to attract new congregation members and make people aware of the community space available in the church may be knocking on doors and letting everyone know they are welcome to attend.

"I have great memories of the fellowship," said Burk. "You could always joke and every Sunday, if it was somebody's birthday, we sang to them."

Lochlin United Church remains open. Burk says that the door is always open for a visit. The congregation hopes to plan an event for the church's 100th anniversary happening on November 22.

/submitted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MINDEN HILLS
Cultural Centre

County opts to not appeal

from page 1

County Council has been asked to consider review of the decision of Algonquin Highlands."

Dyke noted that at this point, they have received the request as information.

Councillor Lisa Schell, the deputy mayor of Minden Hills, asked for a bit of context on the topic, seeking clarification from Algonquin Highlands representatives. Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, was absent from the meeting.

Deputy Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of AH, took the lead.

"It was clear that there appeared to be an issue with the access to the property," noted Danielsen. "The big emphasis seemed to be from the lake associations and health of the lake." Danielsen went on to say that this prompted the request for an environmental impact student, and the owner of the property in question also received a nutrient management study, and had visits from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and Rural Affairs, as well as the Ministry of Natural Resources to the site. "He really went through quite a few hoops," she said.

She noted that both the County's Official Plan, as well as the Official Plan for AH, mentions access points, as well as supporting agricultural endeavours and economic growth. "There is kind of conflicting information," she said. "We also acknowledge that all of our Official Plans are outdated."

Danielsen shared that a number of surrounding properties are zoned Rural, and fall within the same boundaries of the property in question. "They could do exactly what the applicant wants to do without even applying for it," she said. "It almost seemed to come down to, it wasn't really about the health of the lakes, it was about the number of pigs." Danielsen noted that the property has capacity for eight pigs, and the applicant has agreed to decrease that number "significantly."

> ***"It would have to be a very egregious matter before I come to County Council and ask them to appeal the decision."***
>
> — Gary Dyke, County CAO

Dyke went on to clarify that the item that was identified as missing from the property was access to a public roadway, which was why it was not deemed appropriate to move forward through a county lens. "That is why it is stated that it doesn't conform to the County Official Plan," he said. "I don't think it would warrant us appealing the decision," said Dyke. "It would have to be a very egregious matter before I come to County Council and ask them to appeal the decision. I don't think it meets that standard in this case."

The request was received as information by the councillors.

Water droplets falling off a bull moose in Algonquin Highlands. /submitted by Tammy Nash

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IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2025 Final tax bills were mailed up until June 10th, 2025. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the July 18th, 2025, due date, please contact our office at 705-286-1260. The Final tax bill will be payable in two installments: July 18th and September 19th, 2025. The bills are calculated using your property's MPAC assessed value and the appropriate tax rate. The tax rates are available on our website at www.mindenhills.ca/en/local-government/property-taxes.aspx#Tax-Rates.

Payments received after May 31st may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts shown on your tax bill do not include penalty/interest for July. Please contact our office for a current balance.

New landfill cards are included with the final tax bill. These will take effect on July 1, 2025. It is imperative that property owners ensure they have these new cards when visiting the landfill.

Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change. As per the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

WHEN IS AN ENTRANCE PERMIT REQUIRED?

If you alter an existing driveway in any way, by paving it or widening it as an example, you must apply for an entrance permit. Visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/entranceandwideloadpermits/ for more information.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

June 26 – Regular Council Meeting
July 31 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT IS COMING UP THIS MONTH

June 28, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Scotch Line Landfill. Bring your sensitive documents to be safely shredded on-site — no need to remove staples. We're also collecting donations for the Minden Community Food Centre: Non-perishable food items, toiletries, and monetary donations welcome. Protect your privacy and give back to the community.

PUBLIC NOTICE – REVISED REGULAR AGENDA

Take Notice that the June 26, 2025 Regular Council Agenda is revised to commence Closed Session of Council to follow Item 6 – Delegations. The Regular Council meeting will commence at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne St., Minden, ON. The Regular Council Meeting Open session will resume following the Closed Session.
Dated this 11th day of June 2025
If you have any questions, please contact:
Vicki Bull, Clerk
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 ext. 515

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day by visiting We Were Taught Differently (Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin) an exhibit created by The MUSE (Kenora, Ontario). The exhibit examines the residential school experience and the long-term effects on First Nations people. Powerful images, text, video, archival material, and personal recollections combine to teach visitors about the schools, the recent settlement agreement, and Government & church apologies.
- In celebration of National Pollinator Week, join us for a special screening of Four Wings and a Prayer (2007) on Thursday, June 19 at 1:00 PM. Directed by Nick de Pencier, the film is a captivating documentary that follows the incredible migration of the Monarch butterfly.
- Join the UFO Craft Group on Friday, June 20 from 1 – 3 pm in the Welch Room. All are welcome to bring their unfinished projects to work on.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Mark your calendars! Celebrate Canada Day in Minden Hills with events occurring downtown, at the Cultural Centre, and at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The Super Dogs will be performing three shows at the arena while face painting and bouncy castles will be available at the Cultural Centre – and more!

For a full list of events, visit the Minden Hills online events calendar.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917 Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills

Dorset Heritage Museum ready for Heritage Day

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Dorset Heritage Day is slated for June 28, and will feature a reenactment group that will highlight local history. /submitted

Entirely run by volunteers, 2026 will mark the 25th year that the Dorset Heritage Museum has had a physical space for their collections.

The Heritage Museum is truly a cultural institution in Algonquin Highlands.

While preserving history, their team of volunteers strives to add to their collection through interviews and bring history to life through events like their annual Heritage Day that will be happening on Saturday, June 28.

"We are losing a lot of our older people," said Kerry Lock, chairperson of the Dorset Heritage Museum Management Committee. "We try to capture as many stories as we can."

The video recordings of the interviews are used in their Memories of Dorset video series that the museum regularly presents to the public.

Throughout Lock's journey with the museum, some of her favourite memories include a visitor finding paper mache bells that were created by his mother. Another is of a visitor whose great grandfather was one of the few people that were born in the village of Dorset. With connections to Novar, Lock introduced him to a craftsperson that knew his great grandfather personally.

For those that have not visited the Dorset Heritage Museum yet, the museum houses a plethora of treasures including a fire truck, a variety of artwork, signage, animal specimens, and many other items intertwined with Dorset's history. An entire section of the museum is dedicated to the churches of Dorset, with wedding gowns encased behind glass. The museum also hosts a model replica of the Gilmour Tramway. Using jackpumps and waterflumes, the Gilmour Lumber Company lifted pine logs from Lake of Bays to Lake St. Nora.

Heritage Day will be taking place on June 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Local vendors, community groups, and performers will make the museum a must-see destination for the Saturday.

"It brings awareness that we are here and what we do," said Lock. "It's great for the kids."

For Heritage Day, vendors will include Dale Card Wreath and Jewelry, 7th Monkey Designs, Raw Vinyl Records, Emes Family Maple Syrup, and The Muskoka Sock Co. Harvey Walker, Plein Air Artist, and Wyatt Black, runner-up for Season 10 of *Alone* will be in attendance.

Outdoor exhibits at the event will include historical reenactors from the 35th Muskoka Battalion, antique automobiles, tractors, and face painting. Food will be able to be purchased from the Dorset Lions Club.

With an encampment setup and wearing period clothing, the 35th Battalion will be shooting cannons, chatting with visitors, and answering historical questions.

Heritage Day is entirely free to guests, with the option of donating towards their Special Projects Fundraiser.

While in the early stages, the committee is looking at putting up a gazebo in front of the museum to provide talks to the public and put on special events.

"The event is to show that we are here, alive and helping the community," said Lock.

The events for Heritage Day are rain or shine. The Dorset Heritage Museum is located at 1040 Main Street in Dorset.

Father's Day in the County

Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve hosted their annual BBQ and Fishing Derby for Father's Day this past weekend. With games and contests catered to kids of all ages, the event drew crowds from all over. Boshkung Smoke House offered barbecued brisket for all those in attendance. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Father's Day in the County

The Haliburton Legion hosted an all-you-can-eat Father's Day dinner on Saturday,June 14. Catered by an area favourite, Till Death BBQ's Shannon and Joy Brown served up a traditional BBQ dinner, featuring BBQ must-haves, including pulled pork, brisket and mac-n-cheese. Musician Joslynn Burford provided the soundtrack for the sold-out dinner.

Left, Shannon and Joy Brown pose for a photo during the dinner.

Musician Joslynn Burford provided the soundtrack for the sold-out dinner.

Fun at Haliburton Forest during their Father's Day Fishing Derby./TIM YANO staff photographer

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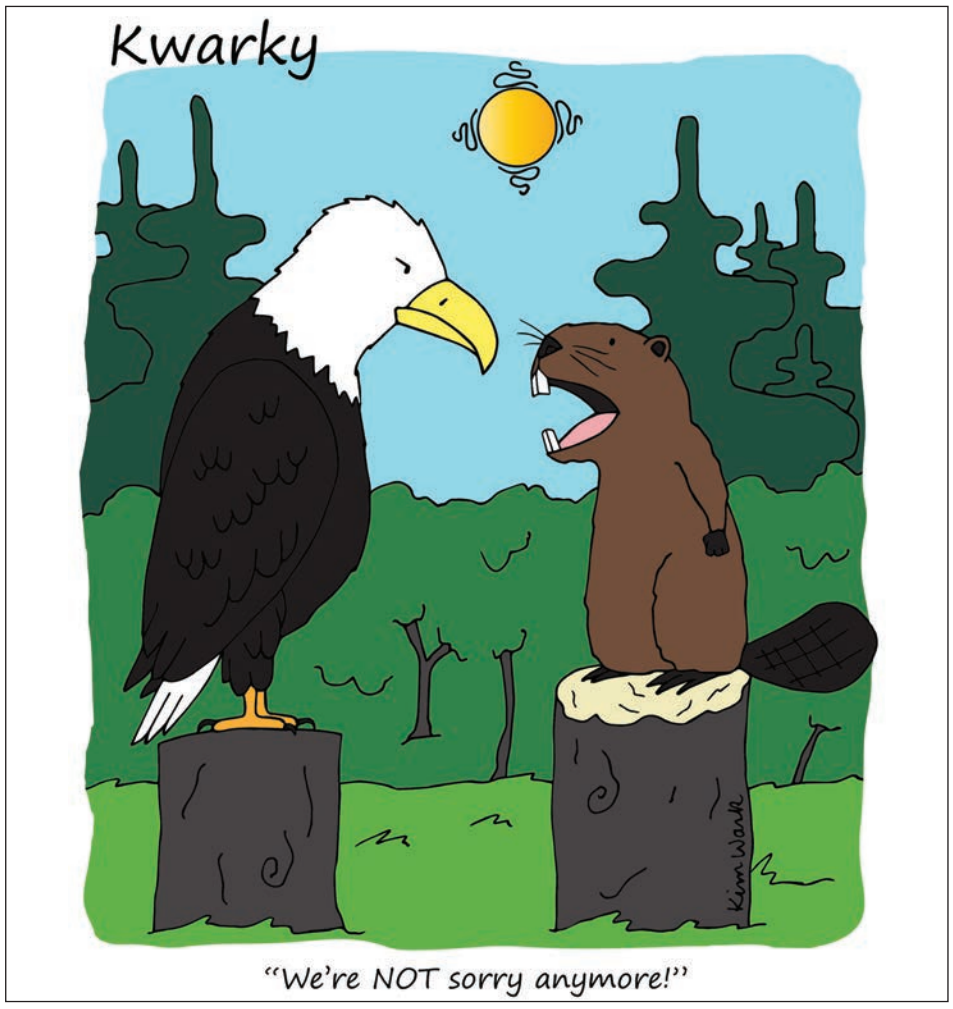

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SUDOKU

	3	6					2	8
					9	5		
8	9	5	2	6		1		4
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	8		7					
	7	1	3	2		8		5
			1	8	4			
6				5				
1	5		6			4	9	2

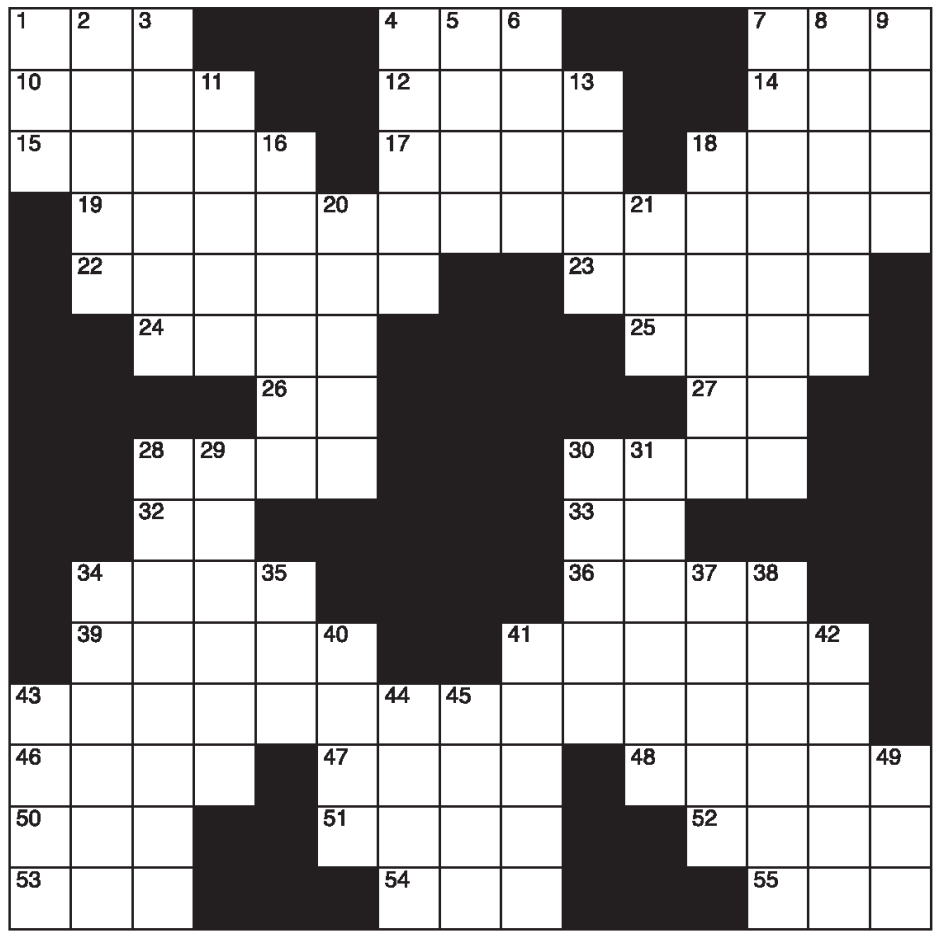
Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 22



CLUES ACROSS

1. Tooth caregiver
4. Greek counterpart of Rhea
7. A numbered mail compartment (abbr.)
10. New Zealand parrots
12. Political action committees
14. Fringe-toed lizard
15. Reposes
17. Winglike structures
18. MacMurray of "My Three Sons"
19. Oprah's Broadway show
22. Ceaser, egg and tossed
23. Oarlock
24. Agile, lively (nautical)
25. Skim or dart
26. And (Latin)
27. Embodies
28. Gallivants
30. Hyperbolic cosecant
32. Rural delivery
33. Atomic #89
34. Opposite of wealthy
36. Imus and Knotts
39. Yellow ageratum species
41. Large tropical Am. lizard
43. Late Show star
46. Armor breastplate
47. "Death in the Family" author
48. Liquors from rice
50. Bread for a burger
51. Yeast
52. 100 = 1 tala in W. Samoa
53. Two-year-old sheep
54. Hyrax or cony
55. Engine additive

CLUES DOWN

1. Danish krone (abbr.)
2. Insect repellents
3. Move sideways
4. October's birthstones
5. __ Alto, California city
6. Mark of healed tissue
7. Somewhat purple
8. Egg mixture cooked until just set
9. Past tense of bid
11. Ancient stone slab bearing markings
13. 9th month (abbr.)
16. Thrown into a fright
18. A playful antic
20. "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
21. Ultrahigh frequency
28. Cutting gun barrel spirals
29. Youth loved by Aphrodite
30. Get by begging
31. Cleans by scrubbing vigorously
34. Bubonic calamity
35. Radioactivity unit
37. South African peoples
38. Legless reptiles
40. Thick piece of something
41. A distinct part of a list
42. Regarding (Scottish prep.)
43. Something that is owed
44. Mild exclamation
45. Etce____: continuing the same
49. Variation of 17 down

Answers on page 22

Artist Garrett Gilbart uses his background in welding and blacksmithing to add intricate designs on old scrap pieces. /photo submitted

Saw blades carved to reflect the natural landscape.

Artist breathes new life into forgotten pieces

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

For Garrett Gilbart, derelict and dingy items aren't waste, they're a canvas. The multi-media welder and artist spends his career collecting thrown-away pieces, and turning them into pieces of art. "I like the idea of multiple access points to a piece of art," said Gilbart, "and knitting together the 1860s and the 1970s."

Gilbart draws his inspiration from multiple chapters of human history, looking back to the Industrial Revolution of the mid-1800s - one of the first clashes in the art world of man versus machine. "I carve my pieces with patterns based on old wallpaper," he said, referencing the intricate flora and fauna that dances across the metal canvas. He gave a nod to William Morris, who he said many would see as "a kindly old grandfather who designed wallpapers," but in reality, he was a mover and shaker of the arts and crafts movement of the time.

During the Industrial Revolution, artists were being quickly shoved out of relevance by machines and factories which stamped and stenciled in an effort to fast track production, but kill the human spirit. Morris found the shunned-out artists, and created an industry around them. "He became successful by really respecting and championing his workers," said Gilbart.

The juxtaposition of these carvings on car parts from the 1970s is what gives Gilbart an opportunity to explore the bookends of industrialization. "It's about getting people into the work through different levels of appreciation," he said.

Gilbart grew up just outside of Peterborough, and has been coming to the annual Arts and Crafts Festival in Head Lake Park for years. He has a background in welding, and has attended post-secondary art institutions to continue to hone in on his work. Prior to opening his upcoming show in Haliburton, he was wrapping up an artist residency in Quebec.

His work has always garnered second glances and interested eyes, but as the battle of man versus machine continues in our technologically-driven world, his pieces are that much more relevant to the narrative of modern history.

He referenced one point where he was supposed to send pieces to Miami recently, but in light of the tariffs on car parts - the canvas' with which he works - he had to give some second thought to the shipment. "Somehow the work is getting more and more timely," he said, always maintaining a political undercurrent to his pieces.

Gilbart will have his first exhibit at the Rails End Gallery, *Arts and Labour, by Garrett Gilbart: A Contemporary Response to Industrial Craft, Past and Present* kicks off on June 20.

Using welding and blacksmithing practices, Gilbart used doors, car hoods, and steel scraps to weave and whisper stories of the past, carvings of the present, and hauntings for the future. Each piece can be interpreted with a wealth of possibilities, pending the viewer's own experiences. The unique showcase of the carvings, sculptures, and shadows will don the walls of the old railway station until Aug. 28.

Gilbart's upcoming show at the Rail's End Gallery will be featuring his collection of carved car hoods.

School board names new business services superintendent

JAMES MATTHEWS

Journalist

The local school board has a new boss on the business side of its operation.

Nicole Britton was recently introduced as the new business services superintendent at the Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB).

She replaced Tim Ellis who previously had responsibilities for all aspects of the Financial Services Department.

Wes Hahn, the board's education director, said Britton has a strong background in financial leadership and a proven track record in public sector finance. She brings valuable knowledge to the role, he said.

Britton began working at the board in 2000 as a financial analyst and ascended to the senior manager's role at financial services in 2018. She is a Chartered Professional Account (CPA) with a Business Supervisory Officer's Certification.

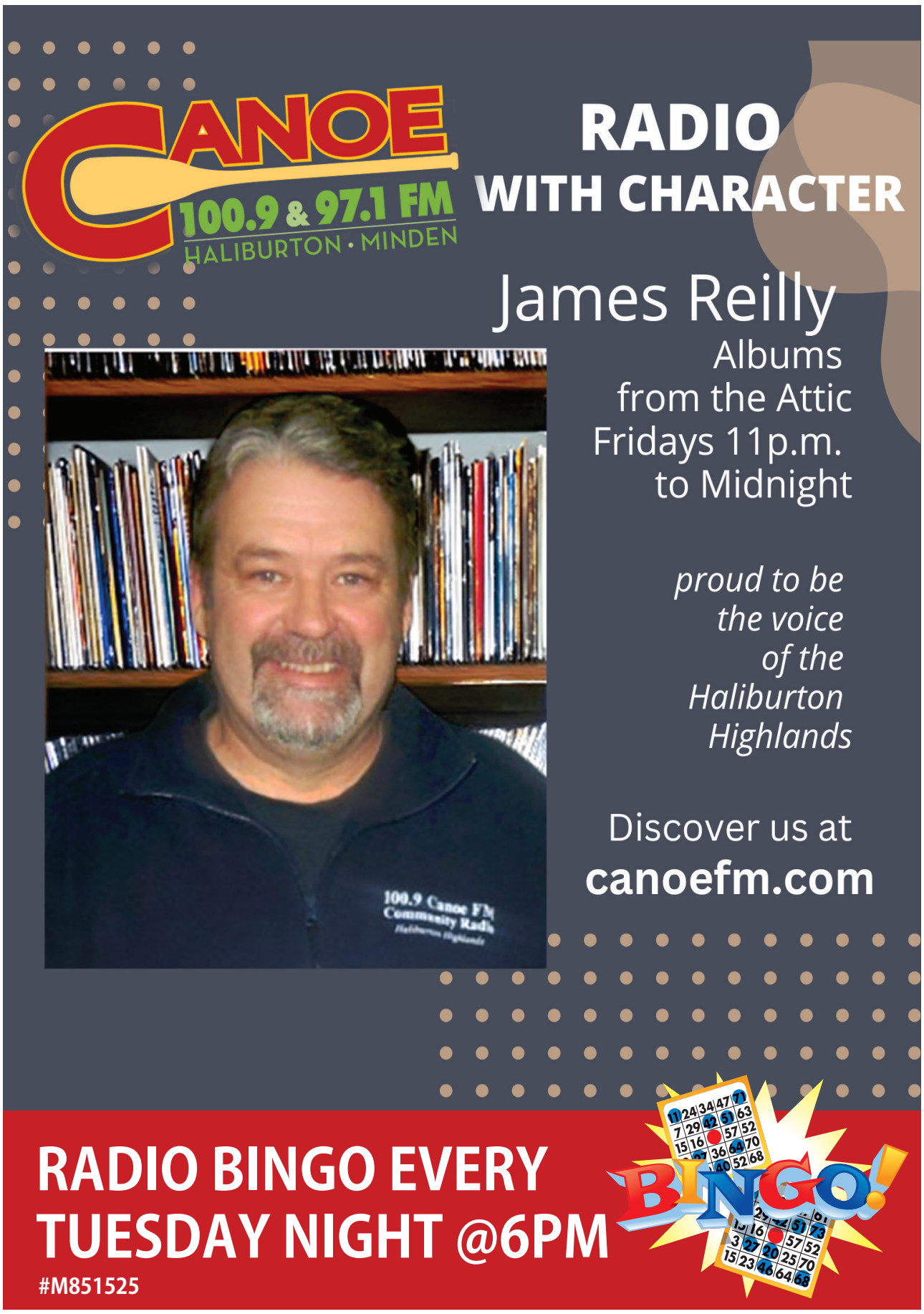
"We are excited to welcome Nicole to the team," Hahn said. "She is known across the system for her professionalism, kindness, patience, and breadth of knowledge. She will be an asset to the senior team at TLDSB."

In her role, Britton will oversee the development, monitoring, and long-term financial planning of the board's budget, along with strategic leadership in accounting, payroll, and procurement.

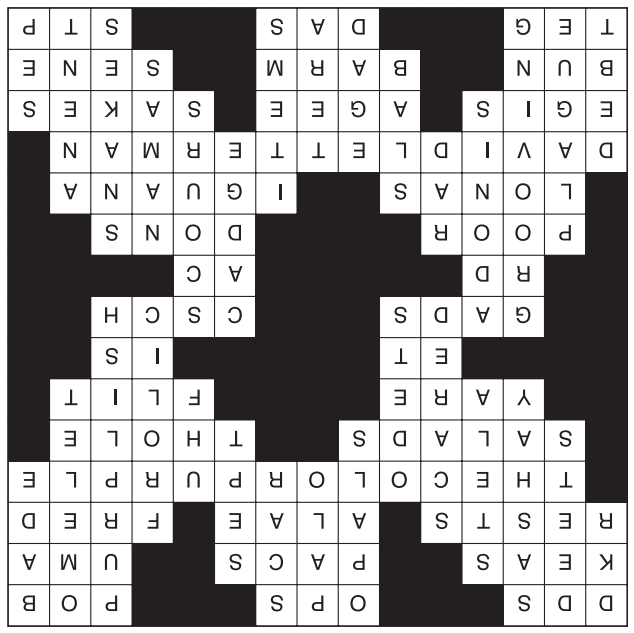
"I look forward to working with the senior leadership team and trustees, new challenges, and to continue being part of the Financial Services team," she said.

"I have worked in finance for TLDSB for almost 25 years, which allows me to bring the technical knowledge required to this role, as well as what I've learned as a leader, particularly in the areas of collaboration, communications, and positivity."

/submitted



CROSSWORD ANSWERS



SUDOKU SOLUTION

4	3	6	5	7	1	9	2	8
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8	9	5	2	6	3	1	7	4
5	6	2	4	9	8	3	1	7
3	8	4	7	1	5	2	6	9
9	7	1	3	2	6	8	4	5
7	2	9	1	8	4	6	5	3
6	4	3	9	5	2	7	8	1
1	5	8	6	3	7	4	9	2

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OBITUARIES

Beverly Ann Bourne (nee Hayes)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Beverly Ann Bourne at Victoria Manor in Lindsay on June 7th, 2025, at the age of 85, surrounded by her loving family. She was the loving daughter of Robert and Flora Hayes (both predeceased). Bev was the beloved wife of the late David William Bourne, cherished mother to Brent (Donna) of Keswick, Cheryl in Minden, and son-in-law, John (predeceased). She was a devoted Grandma/ Nana to Emily (Tyler), Logan, Mackenzie (Chris), Emma, and great-grandma to Noah. She will be deeply missed by her brother Gordon (Joyce), along with her adored niece, Lindsay (Sean), her nephew Trevor, and her great-nephews, Liam and Riley. Bev was well loved by her brother-in-law and Sister in law, Don and Joan, and her nieces, Jenny (Steve) and Sarah. Bev was also loved by Edward (Joan) and his respective family members. She touched the lives of many and will be greatly missed by her many cousins and extended family.

Bev was a supportive and devoted grandmother who endured many cold ice rinks, curling clubs, along with dance competitions to cheer on her grandchildren. When Bill and Bev moved to the cottage and retired in Haliburton, she volunteered at Canoe FM. Mom was affectionately known as "DJ Nana" around the table, and she thrived at giving to others. What she enjoyed the most was spending time with her family and friends.

We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude for the loving care she received at The Gardens of Haliburton and the last 6 months at Victoria Manor.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 on Monday, June 23, 2025 for a Funeral Service beginning at 1:00 (Visitation one hour prior). As an expression of sympathy, donations to Canoe FM or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Community Support Services - Volunteer Driving Program would be appreciated by the family.

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
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Stouffer sawmill destroyed by fire Tuesday

Firemen battle intense heat, save trucks, stock of lumber

By ELIZABETH CHURCH
Staff Reporter

A fire which began early Tuesday morning has destroyed Stouffer's Lumber Mill, located near Halls Lake. The cause of the blaze is not yet known, but mill owner Elgin Stouffer estimates that damages could be as high as $200,000.

Stouffer, who was awakened at about 5 a.m. by the sound of the burning mill, said the fire was already quite advanced by the time he notified the Stanhope Fire Department and reached the lumber yard, located in a valley beneath his home.

"It was only half an hour between when I first saw the fire and when the roof caved in," Stouffer said. "The fire was very hot and burned very fast. We were lucky it happened in the morning when everything was wet with dew and there was no wind," he added.

Although fire fighters were unable to save the main building and the expensive production machinery which it housed, they did manage to contain the blaze and save the trucks and piles of lumber that were also in the yard.

Stouffer said he has no plans to replace the destroyed building and continue operations of the mill, which employs two other men besides himself. Stouffer noted that sales at the lumber mill have been good and there has been no problem with production, but said the fire will bring an end to the ten year old operation.

"I'm too old to start again," he said.

These structural supports and pieces of machinery are all that remain of Stouffer's Lumber Mill following a fire which began early Tuesday morning. Although some equipment and finished lumber was saved, the building which housed the saw mill was completely destroyed.

MOE monitoring oil in river

Ontario's Environment Ministry is monitoring a pollution problem on the Drag River in Haliburton, but an MOE official says the situation appears to pose no danger to fish or people. Heating oil from a ruptured tank has been seeping into the river since February, but steps have now been taken to contain it in a well tile and a small boom, from which it can be skimmed off without flowing downstream and into Head Lake.

Don Grabowski of the MOE's Gravenhurst office said the oil is believed to have come from an underground tank at the Good Medical Centre which was discovered to be leaking last fall and was replaced. Grabowski said at least 200 gallons of fuel oil may have soaked into the ground before the problem was discovered. The oil has reached the ground water table and this spring it began seeping out of an embankment behind the clinic and into the Drag River, where it was noticed by local residents as a slick on the water surface.

"About everything that can be done is being done" Grabowski said.

A metal barrier has been placed in the ground to divert the seepage into a well tile, from which it is skimmed off periodically. Any traces of oil which are not caught by the barrier and tile arrangement are contained in a small boom extending out into the river.

"I think they're getting most of it," Grabowski said, adding that any oil which does escape generally stays on the surface as a thin slick and quickly biodegrades.

There was some concern that the oil might effect pickerel which spawn in that part of the river, but no problems have been observed, according to the MOE official.

Board urged to make busing safer

By ELIZABETH CHURCH
Staff Reporter

The Archie Stouffer Elementary School Home and School Association has put forward a number of recommendations to the Transportation Committee of the Board of Education for the improvement of school bus safety. The recommendations, included in a brief presented to the committee on June 5, cite nine areas in which the association feels safety measures could be upgraded.

Among the measures advocated by the association is a recommendation that school bus drivers be certified annually by the Board of Education. In order to pass such an inspection, the association suggests that drivers demonstrate that they are competent defensive drivers, and are able to deal effectively with difficult, dangerous and emergency situations. The association recommends therefore, that school bus drivers be required to attend an approved defensive driving course, and that they have a valid St. John's Ambulance certificate in first aid training. The brief also suggests that drivers receive instruction from the local Board of Education in methods of maintaining student discipline in order that they may be better equipped to control student behaviour on buses.

In addition to the certification of drivers, the association also recommends that school buses be subject to frequent inspections to ensure that they are mechanically fit. The inspections, the group says, should be conducted by a licensed, authorized mechanic who is not employed by the company that holds the busing contract.

The Home and School Association also expresses concern over the procedures used by students when crossing roads as well as the conduct of students. The group recommends that students receive instruction in the proper way to cross roads and be taught rules of conduct for riding on school buses. These rules of conduct, the brief recommends, should also be sent to the parents of newly registered children and to all parents at the beginning of each school year. Actual practice in crossing procedure on the first day of the new school year is also receommended for students in Kindergarten and Grade one. These measures, the

Please turn to Page 2

This year's Kinsmen Home Show in Haliburton featured a number of attractive displays by area business people. The show, which ran from Friday through Sunday, drew a large number of visitors to the Dysart arena.

Legacy of poor roads haunting, Dysart may set higher standard

Concerned about the cost of maintaining sub standard roads that fall into municipal hands, Dysart et al council may formulate a policy that would require all development roads to meet specific width, grade and surface quality requirements.

The problem was given a thorouth airing Monday when council considered a request from Hasley Developments for water access lots on Miskwabi Lake. The company is seeking approval to provide access to the lots from property it owns adjacent to existing cottage properties, and said it would build a road to the new lots suitable for "emergency use" only.

The proposal was rejected by council, who disagree with the water access concept as proposed by Hasley and want the lots serviced by a road that would meet criteria to be established by the municipality.

Poor quality roads to cottage developments are a source of ongoing frustration for the municipality, which must struggle with rapidly rising maintenance and construction costs while provincial grant support for roads is falling. While current provincial housing ministry regulations discourage cottage developments on private

Please turn to Page 3

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A different kind of egg hunt thanks to the Haliburton County Farmers' Association. /submitted by Sue Tiffin

Valerie Carr worked one of the entrance gates at the Haliburton County Fair this past Saturday, June 14 in Minden.

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